

Agency : FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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Comment : The proposed Rule Change to eliminate the morse code telegraphy test requirement for all licenses in the amateur service should be approved. This requirement is no longer needed as a method of ensuring operating competence. Retention of the requirement would constitute an unnecessary barrier to licensing. The existing technical, operating practices, and FCC rules examinations are adequate for ensuring operator competence. Given the elimination of the requirement under international agreement for minimum morse code proficiency at 5 words per minute for operation below 30 MHz, there is no longer any justification for the expense of maintaining a morse code testing requirement for US licensees. Elimination of the requirement as proposed in the NPRM will lower costs and provide a more reasonable and cost-effective basis for the examinations, without compromising the adequacy of the examinations for their intended purposes.. Therefore the proposed Rule Change should be approved.

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